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U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852
February 26, 2001

To Whom It May Concern,

I urge you to impose the prohibition of the slaughter of "downed" animals proposed by Docket # 98P-0151/CP1. Downed animals are those animals too sick or injured to stand. This petition stems from the basis that animals too sick to even stand should not enter the human food chain, due to the increased risk of bacterial contamination, and evidence that some downed cows may even be afflicted with a form of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or "Mad Cow Disease".

Additionally, there is no humane way to move a downed animal; they are typically dragged with chains, or lifted with a forklift, causing suffering and further injuries. Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing would cause no undue economic hardship. In fact, removing the market for downed animals would encourage better treatment and handling, thus preventing most downers in the first place.

There is growing consensus for such a prohibition, even among livestock industry and government officials. The USDA has already instituted a policy of refusing to accept meat from downed animals for the National School Lunch Program, and numerous beef, dairy, and pork industry representatives have voiced support for such a prohibition. I urge consistency in the treatment of animals via regulations instituted by your organization.

Sincerely,



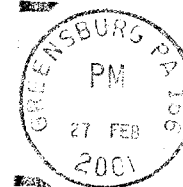
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98P-0151

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